



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

JAN 21 1997

Bill Cotton

87-268

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Richard R. Weldon, Sr.  
4297 Joemiller Road  
Malaca, Washington 98828

Dear Mr. Weldon:

Thank you for your letter, dated November 21, 1996, expressing concern regarding the Commission's recent proposal on policies for developing the initial digital television (DTV) channel allotments. Your specific concern is that the Commission will authorize new mobile services such as cellular radio at the expense of existing television service.

In a recent proceeding, the Commission stated that it is considering a spectrum option for digital TV that would permit the eventual recovery of 138 megahertz of spectrum nationwide. This spectrum would be obtained from the lower VHF channels, i.e., channels 2-6 (54-72 MHz and 76-88 MHz), and upper UHF channels, i.e., 52-69 (698-806 MHz). The Commission further noted that this option may facilitate the early recovery of a portion of this spectrum. For example, it may be possible to recover 60 MHz of spectrum almost immediately from the band 746-806 MHz, i.e., UHF channels 60-69, while protecting the relatively few full-service analog and digital broadcasters in that spectrum.

The Commission stated that while it does not intend to decide whether to reallocate channels 60-69 in the DTV proceeding, it nonetheless recognizes that there are other uses for this spectrum. For example, this spectrum could be licensed for flexible mobile operations; a portion of it could be used to meet public safety needs; and/or a portion could be designated temporarily or permanently for low power TV and TV translator stations. If such an early recovery were to occur, we would initiate a separate proceeding to decide how this spectrum should be used.

We estimate that about 80 to 90 percent of all TV translator stations would be able to continue to operate if all of the DTV allotments were activated. These estimates are based on the expected impact of new DTV operations and do not take into account any spectrum recovery proposals. We note, for example, that about 17 percent of all TV translator stations would be affected by recovery of channels 60-69. However, it should be noted that channels 60-69 are used for DTV allotments in a number of instances and some impact on translator operations on these channels would occur even absent our spectrum recovery effort. We also note that many current TV channels have fewer than 100 TV translator stations nationwide, while many other channels have significantly more than 100 such stations. We therefore believe that with more intensive utilization of the remaining channels, it should be possible to accommodate many TV translator operations that are displaced.

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Please be assured that the Commission recognizes the important benefits that TV translators provide to the public. In view of these important benefits, we proposed a number of steps to mitigate the likelihood and effects of displacement on TV translator stations. These proposals include allowing TV translator stations: 1) to apply for a suitable replacement channel in the same area without being subject to competing applications; 2) to operate until a displacing DTV station or a new primary service provider is operational; 3) to change their operating parameters to cure or prevent interference caused to or received from a DTV station or other protected service. We further proposed to amend our rules to permit TV translator stations that are adversely affected by the implementation of DTV or our spectrum recovery efforts to take terrain shielding and other appropriate engineering factors into account in order to avoid interference to full service TV stations.

The comment period for this proceeding ended November 22, 1996. However, reply comments can be submitted through January 10, 1997. Thus, we are including your letter in the Docket in this proceeding. The Commission is very much aware of the concerns of the existing television service and we will carefully consider all comments in our decision to amend the Table of Allotments for broadcast television.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard B. Engelman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard B. Engelman  
Chief  
Standards Development Branch  
Office of Engineering and Technology

cc: Bill Caton, FCC Secretary for  
placement in Docket No. MM 87-268

*Policy Div.*

RECEIVED  
DEC 10 3 03 PM '96  
FED. COMM. COMM. DIVISION  
WASHINGTON

NOVEMBER 1996  
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DEAR SIRs:

FCC MAIL ROOM

I AM WRITING IN RELATION TO  
A ARTICLE IN THE WENATCHEE DAILY  
WORLD CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE  
REASSIGNMENT OF REFLECTOR TELEVISION  
CHANNELS TO USE AS CELLULAR  
PHONE LINES FOR SOME OF US IN REMOTE  
AREAS THIS WOULD BE A FAST DISGRACE

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO STAY  
A BREAST OF LOCAL LATE BREAKING NEWS  
BECAUSE IN NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON  
WE HAVE NO LOCAL STATIONS AND A  
LOT OF US LIVE IN COUNTRY IN NON-  
CABLED AREAS. CELLULAR PHONES ARE  
A LUXURY WE CAN DO WITH OUT  
MORE OF. THERE ARE TOO MANY  
DRIVERS WHO ARE DOING BUSINESS ON  
THE PHONE RATHER THEN DRIVING.

REFLECTOR TELEVISION IS A  
VALUABLE COMMODITY FOR U.S.  
RETIRED SENIOR CITIZENS.

HOPING YOU WILL CONSIDER THIS  
SITUATION CAREFULLY

I REMAIN

RICHARD F. WELDON SR.

4297 JOEMILLER ROAD

MALACA, WASH 98828

(509) 663-5583

R.S. DUGAN 87-268